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A New Method of Attributing 1870-CC Seated Dollars

by
Stephen Petty

On March 9, 2009 I purchased a raw 1870-CC Seated dollar from Dick Osburn Rare Coins that was nicely toned with some luster in an estimated grade of AU-50. This coin may not be gradable by a third party grading service since it is a bit dull with uniform toning, likely from past over dipping and subsequent re-toning. However, immediately upon examining this coin the observer will notice a curved line running through the field to the left of Miss Liberty's arm as well as other marks around the perimeter of the obverse. I had never seen these features before on an 1870-CC Seated dollar and decided to take a closer look at the known die pairs for this issue so that I could properly identify the die marriage of my new purchase.

Early Research on 1870-CC Seated Dollar Dies

At this point it will be helpful to review the information published on the known die marriages for the 1870-CC Seated dollar with a reported mintage of 11,758 pieces. The early research on these die marriages was done by John Kroon almost thirty years ago and published in the *Gobrecht Journal* during the 1980s. Kroon described and illustrated four reverses for the 1870-CC dollar in his article that was published in Issue #23 of the *Gobrecht Journal* in March 1982. A fifth reverse for this issue was reported by Joseph Jaffe and described and illustrated in Issue #31 of the journal in November 1984. John Kroon then described and illustrated two obverse dies for the 1870-CC dollar in an article that was published in Issue #32 of the journal in March 1985. In this article Kroon also lists eight known die pairs that were struck from the two obverse dies and five reverse dies known at that time. A third obverse die for this issue was reported by Bert Schlosser in Issue #61 of the journal in November 1994. All of these articles have been reprinted in the *Collective Volumes* of the journal.



Unusual 1870-CC Seated Dollar with Lines Running through Obverse Field

A summary of the features of the three obverse dies identified in this early research is given in the table below:

Table 1.1
Characteristics of Known Obverse Dies for 1870-CC Seated Dollars

- Obverse 1:** Date Left. References: John Kroon, Issue #32, March 1985; Bert Schlosser, Issue #61, November 1994.
- Obverse 2:** Date Right. References: John Kroon, Issue #32, March 1985; Bert Schlosser, Issue #61, November 1994.
- Obverse 3:** Date Far Right. References: Bert Schlosser, Issue #61, November 1994; Bert Schlosser, Issue #68, March 1997.

In the early research on the 1870-CC dollar the reverse dies were identified as Reverses #1 to #5. Since modern scholars generally use letters for the identification of the reverse dies I have made the conversion to the modern terminology as follows:

	1870-CC Reverse Dies				
Early Identification Code	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Modern Identification Code	A	B	C	D	E

A summery of the features of the five reverse dies identified in the modern code for 1870-CC dollars is given in the table below:

Table 1.2
Characteristics of Known Reverse Dies for 1870-CC Seated Dollars

- Reverse A:** Closely spaced CC mintmark; used only on 1870-CC dollars. References: John Kroon, Issue #23, March 1982.
- Reverse B:** Widely spaced CC mintmark, slanted left C; also used on all known 1871-CC dollars. References: John Kroon, Issue #23, March 1982.
- Reverse C:** Widely spaced CC mintmark, left C not slanted; also used on all known 1872-CC dollars. References: John Kroon, Issue #23, March 1982.
- Reverse D:** Widely spaced CC mintmark, CC mintmark shifted right; also used on all known 1873-CC dollars. References: John Kroon, Issue #23, March 1982.
- Reverse E:** Widely spaced CC mintmark, CC mintmark shifted left; die scratch runs through reverse shield diagonally under vertical stripes. References: Joseph Jaffe, Issue #31, November 1984.

John Kroon notes in Issue #56 of the journal in March 1993 that the two obverses known at that time were reported in about equal numbers. No information has been published on the relative abundance of all three obverses once the third obverse was identified.

After all five reverses were known the relative percentage of these reverses was reported as follows:

1870-CC Seated Dollars					
Reverse Die	A	B	C	D	E
Estimated Percentage	5%	20%	25%	35%	15%

Interestingly, Joseph Jaffe reported raised scratches running through the reverse shield diagonally under the vertical stripes on Reverse E. This finding was reported again for Reverse E on a coin obtained by Dr. Wallace Lee in Issue #62 of the journal in March 1995.

New Research on the Die Marriages of 1870-CC Seated Dollars

A new research project was initiated by obtaining a total of 92 sets of obverse and reverse photographs of 1870-CC Seated dollars from the Heritage, Stack’s-Bowers and David Lawrence auction archives. The majority of the coins used in this study graded AU-50 and higher because the features on these pieces were more recognizable in the photographs. The objective of this study was threefold:

- 1. To become more familiar with the known obverse and reverse dies used to strike coins of this issue.
- 2. To establish better criteria for the diagnostics associated with the three obverse dies and the five reverse dies used to strike coins of this issue.
- 3. To determine if any of the 92 coins included in this study had characteristics which matched those of the unusual piece that I had recently purchased.

It should be noted that a total of 566 examples of the 1870-CC Seated dollar have been graded to date, 394 by PCGS and 172 by NGC. Assuming no duplicates and only coins graded by these two services, the photographs of an estimated 16.3% of the available 1870-CC Seated dollars were examined as part of this research. This percentage does not account for coins graded by other third party grading services, coins that have not been certified, nor those that have been submitted more than once to PCGS and NGC.

Diagnostics for 1870-CC Seated Dollar Obverse Dies

Two projection lines were used as diagnostics for identifying the three obverse dies that were used to strike coins of this issue. These lines are as follows:

- 1. A projection line drawn up through the center of the vertical portion of the 1 in the date.
- 2. A projection line drawn up through the center of the 7 in the date.

Diagnostics for the three known obverse dies of the 1870-CC Seated Dollar are given in Table 2 on the following three pages.

Table 2
1870-CC Seated Dollar
Obverse 1, Date Left



1. **Date Number 1 Projection Line:** This line passes between two dentils below the 1 and runs up to the left of the top right corner of the shield.
2. **Date Number 7 Projection Line:** This line passes through a dentil below the 7.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Obverse 2, Date Right



1. **Date Number 1 Projection Line:** This line passes through a dentil below the 1 and runs up to the left of the vertical portion of the T in LIBERTY and to the left of the top right corner of the shield.
2. **Date Number 7 Projection Line:** This line passes through the left side of a dentil below the 7 but nearly between dentils.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Obverse 3, Date Far Right



1. **Date Number 1 Projection Line:** This line passes through a dentil below the 1 and runs up to the right side of the T in LIBERTY and through the top right corner of the shield.
2. **Date Number 7 Projection Line:** This line passes between two dentils below the 7.

The three obverse dies used to strike 1870-CC Seated dollars can be distinguished by the Date Number 1 Projection Line. On Obverse 1 this line passes between two dentils below the 1 while it passes through a dentil on Obverses 2 and 3. On Obverse 2 the Date Number 1 Projection Line runs up to the left of the vertical portion of the T in LIBERTY while on Obverse 3 it runs up to the right of the vertical portion of the T in LIBERTY. It should also be noted that on Obverse 3 this projection line passes through the upper right corner of the shield. Based upon my review of the obverse dies of 92 examples of the 1870-CC Seated dollar, I have found that coins with Obverse 2 are sometimes attributed as Obverse 3. I would hope that the method of attribution that I have described with the use of projection lines through the date would reduce this kind of attribution error.



Unusual 1870-CC Seated Dollar with Heavy Die Line In Left Obverse Field

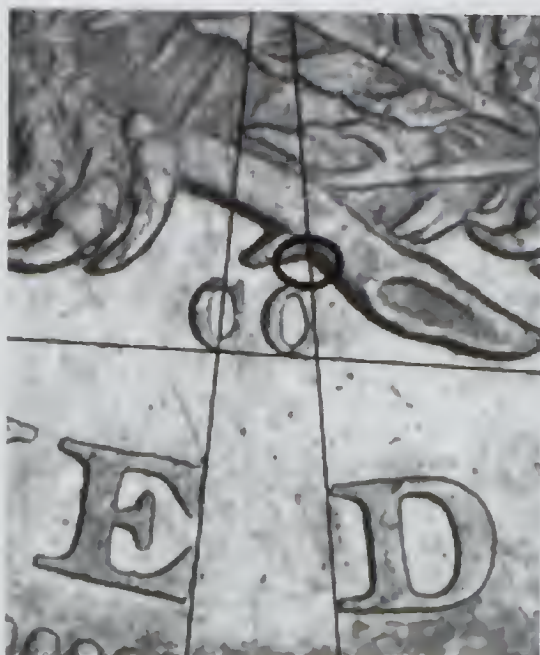
Diagnostics for 1870-CC Seated Dollar Reverse Dies

Three projection lines were used as diagnostics for identifying the five reverse dies that were used to strike coins of this issue. These lines are as follows:

1. A projection line drawn up from the right side of the letter E in the word ONE.
2. A projection line drawn up from the left side of the letter D in DOL.
3. A projection line drawn across the bottom of the CC mintmark.

Diagnostics for the five known reverse dies of the 1870-CC Seated dollar are given in Table 3 on the following pages.

Table 3
1870-CC Seated Dollar
Reverse A, Closely Spaced CC Mintmark



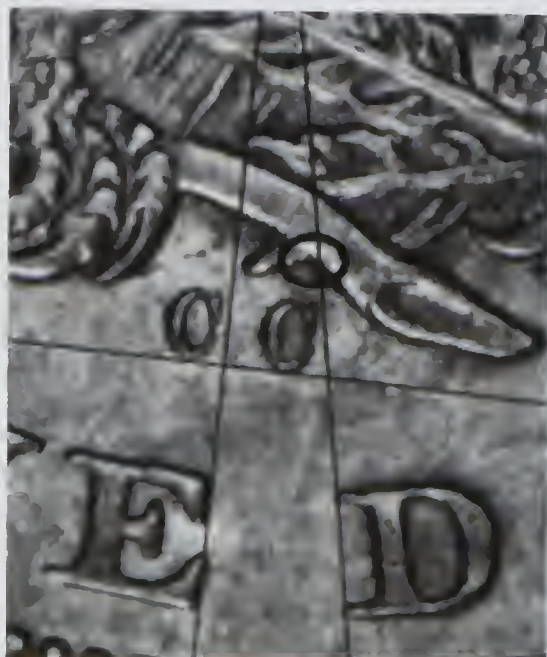
1. **Letter E Projection Line:** This line passes through the center of the left C in the mintmark.
2. **Letter D Projection Line:** This line just touches the right side of the right C in the mintmark and then passes through the intersection between the feather and the stem of the olive branch.
3. **Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line:** This line passes through the 9 o'clock position on the left side of the letter O in ONE, intersects the L in DOL just left of its top right corner and passes over the top edge of the period after DOL.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Reverse B, Widely Spaced CC Mintmark, 1871-CC Reverse



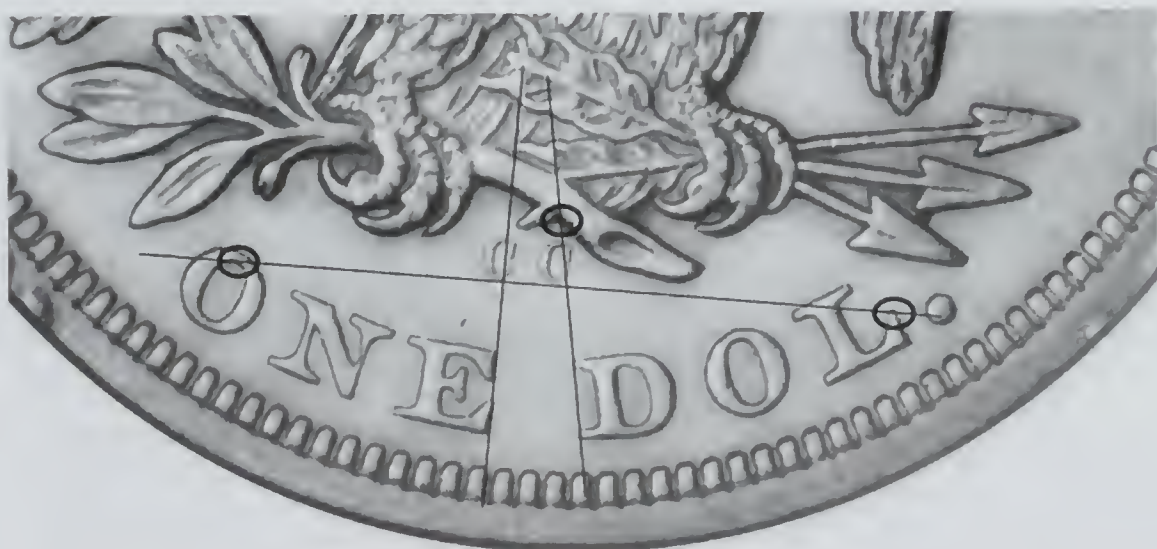
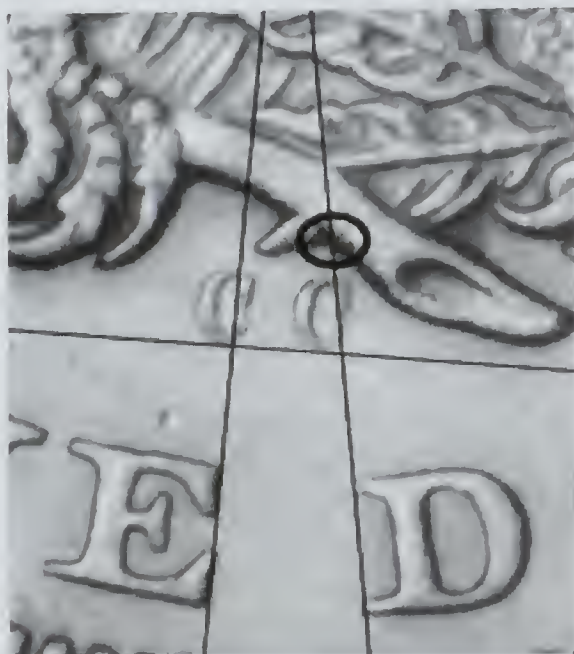
1. **Letter E Projection Line:** This line passes just to the right of the left C in the mintmark.
2. **Letter D Projection Line:** This line passes just to the right of the right C in the mintmark and then intersects the stem of the olive branch to the right of its intersection with the feather tip.
3. **Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line:** This line passes through the 8 o'clock position on the left side of the letter O in ONE, intersects the L in DOL just to the left of its top right corner and passes over the top edge of the period after DOL.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Reverse C, Widely Spaced CC Mintmark, 1872-CC Reverse



1. **Letter E Projection Line:** This line passes just to the right of the left C in the mintmark.
2. **Letter D Projection Line:** This line passes just to the right of the right C in the mintmark and then passes through the stem of the olive branch just to the right of its intersection with the feather tip.
3. **Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line:** This line passes through the 12 o'clock position on the top of the letter O in ONE, passes through the top left corner of the L in DOL, passes through the right serif of the L and then runs below the period after DOL.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Reverse D, Widely Spaced CC Mintmark, 1873-CC Reverse



1. **Letter E Projection Line:** This line passes through the right side of the left C in the mintmark.
2. **Letter D Projection Line:** This line passes through the right side of the right C in the mintmark and then extends up nearly through the intersection between the feather and the stem of the olive branch.
3. **Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line:** This line passes through the top of the letter O in ONE near the 12 o'clock position, passes through the top center of the L in DOL, through the upper tip of the right serif of the L and on through the lower part of the period after DOL.

1870-CC Seated Dollar
Reverse E, Widely Spaced CC Mintmark



1. **Letter E Projection Line:** This line passes along the right edge of the left C in the mintmark.
2. **Letter D Projection Line:** This line passes along the right side of the right C in the mintmark and then extends up through the intersection between the feather and the stem of the olive branch.
3. **Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line:** This line passes through the 9 o'clock position along the left side of the letter O in ONE, intersects the L in DOL just left of the top right corner and extends on through the top of the period after DOL.

The reverse dies are more difficult to identify than the obverse dies on 1870-CC Seated dollars. The position of the three projection lines previously described can be used to identify each of the five reverse dies known for coins of this issue. The characteristics that are most helpful in identifying each of these reverse dies are summarized below.

Reverse A: Closely spaced CC mintmark. The letter E projection line passes through the center of the left C in the mintmark. The letter D projection line passes through the top right edge of the right C in the mintmark and passes through the intersection between the feather and the stem of the olive branch.

Reverse B: Widely spaced and level CC mintmark. The letter E projection line passes just to the right of the left C in the mintmark. The letter D projection line passes just to the right of the right C in the mintmark and intersects the stem to the right of its intersection with the feather tip. The bottom of the mintmark projection line passes through the left side of the O in ONE at the 8 o'clock position. This reverse is very similar to Reverse E and can best be distinguished from it by the position of the letter E projection line that passes just to the right of the left C in the mintmark and the bottom of the mintmark projection line that passes through the left side of the O in ONE at the 8 o'clock position.

Reverse C: Widely spaced and slightly rotated CC mintmark. The bottom of the mintmark projection line passes through the 12 o'clock position on the O in ONE and through the top left corner of the L in DOL. The letter E projection line passes to the right of the left C in the mintmark. The letter D projection line passes to the right of the right C in the mintmark.

Reverse D: Widely spaced and slightly rotated CC mintmark. The bottom of the mintmark projection line passes through the 12 o'clock position on the O in ONE and across the top right tip of the lower horizontal portion of the L in DOL. The letter E projection line passes through the left C in the mintmark. The letter D projection line passes through the right C in the mintmark.

Reverse E: Widely spaced and slightly rotated CC mintmark. The letter E projection line passes along the right side of the left C in the mintmark. The letter D projection line passes along the right side of the right C in the mintmark. The bottom of the mintmark projection line passes through the left side of the O in ONE at the 9 o'clock position. This reverse is very similar to Reverse B. It is most easily distinguished from Reverse B by the letter D projection line that passes through the intersection between the feather and the stem on this reverse.

Identifying reverse dies is more difficult than identifying obverse dies for this issue where the number 1 projection line alone can be used to identify all three of the obverse dies. However, the bottom of the mintmark projection line can often be used to identify the reverse dies for this issue. The exception would be in distinguishing reverses B and E which are very similar with respect to this projection line.

Finally, Joseph Jaffe reported the presence of raised die lines under the vertical stripes in the shield on Reverse E in Issue #31 of the journal in November 1984. These lines were not necessarily present on the coins reviewed as part of this study.

Another comparison for these reverses can be made using the letter E projection line. For Reverses A and D, this projection line passes through the left C in the mintmark. For Reverse E this projection line passes along the right edge of the left C in the mintmark. For Reverses B and C it passes to the right of the left C in the mintmark. Finally, Reverses B and C can be distinguished using the bottom of the mintmark projection line by noting how this line passes through the top serif of the L in DOL.

Known die combinations that have been previously reported in the literature are as follows in Table 4

Table 4
Known Die Combinations for 1870-CC Seated Dollars

	Obverse 1	Obverse 2	Obverse 3
Reverse A	x	x	x
Reverse B	-	x	-
Reverse C	x	x	x
Reverse D	x	x	-
Reverse E	-	x	-

A total of ten die marriages have been previously reported. These are three with Obverse 1, five with Obverse 2 and two with Obverse 3.

An analysis of the die marriages for 90 coins from the mintage of 1870-CC Seated dollars sold at auction by Heritage, Stack's and David Lawrence is given in Table 5. This table also includes the Legend specimen and a specimen of mine at the end of the table for a total of 92 coins. The reported die marriage for each of the auctioned coins is provided in the table as it was listed in the auction description of the lot. The code NA indicating **Not Attributed** is given in the table when the dies were not identified for that particular lot. The table also includes my determination of the dies of each coin from the new identification method that I have developed for this analysis, the certified grade for each coin, the auction house that sold the coin and the date when the piece was sold at auction. The listing is ordered by grade and every attempt was made to exclude duplicate appearances of the same coin in the analysis. A file with the photographs of each coin, including the attribution lines that were applied for each analysis, is available from the author upon request.

Table 5
Analysis of Die Marriages for 1870-CC Liberty Seated Dollars

ID	Die Marriage		Certified	Auction	Date
	Reported	Petty	Grade	House	
1	2-E	2-E	PCGS MS63	Heritage	July 2005
2	2-B	2-B	PCGS MS63	Heritage	February 2007
3	2-C	2-C	NGC MS63	Heritage	April 2002
4	2-E	2-E	PCGS MS63	Heritage	November 2005
5	NA	1-D	PCGS MS62	Heritage	September 2006
6	2-C	2-C	ANACS MS61	Heritage	March 2004
7	1-A	1-A	PCGS MS61	Heritage	October 2009
8	NA	1-D	PCGS AU58	Heritage	February 2003
9	1-D	1-D	NGC AU58	Heritage	April 2006
10	NA	2-E	PCGS AU58	Heritage	December 2004
11	3-C	2-C	PCGS AU58	Heritage	January 2011
12	1-D	1-D	NGC AU58	Heritage	January 2006
13	NA	1-D	NGC AU58	Heritage	October 2001
14	NA	3-E	NGC AU55	Heritage	March 2003
15	2-E	2-E	NGC AU55	Heritage	January 2006
16	3-E	2-E	NGC AU55	Heritage	June 2004
17	3-C	3-C	NGC MS60	Heritage	April 2008
18	NA	2-C	PCGS AU55	Heritage	July 2008
19	NA	1-?	ANACS AU55	Heritage	August 1999
20	2-E	2-E	NGC AU55	Heritage	October 2009
21	2-E	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	January 2007
22	NA	2-C	ANACS Net55	Heritage	July 2003
23	1-D	1-D	NGC AU55	Heritage	September 2009
24	2-E	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	February 2010
25	NA	1-?	NGC AU55	Heritage	November 2000
26	NA	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	July 2004
27	2-E	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	April 2006
28	3-C	2-C	PCGS AU55	Heritage	June 2011
29	3-C	2-C	PCGS AU55	Heritage	February 2006
30	NA	1-?	ANACS AU55	Heritage	July 2002
31	NA	2-A	PCGS AU55	Heritage	July 2003
32	1-D	1-D	NGC AU55	Heritage	May 2004
33	2-E	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	January 2007
34	2-E	2-E	NGC AU55	Heritage	January 2006

ID	Die Marriage Reported	Petty	Certified Grade	Auction House	Date
35	NA	1-A	Raw AU55	Heritage	May 2004
36	2-E	2-E	PCGS AU55	Heritage	February 2005
37	NA	1-A	PCGS AU53	Heritage	April 2007
38	NA	1-D	PCGS AU53	Heritage	August 2001
39	NA	2-C	PCGS AU53	Heritage	January 2003
40	1-B	1-C	NGC AU53	Heritage	April 2010
41	1-E	2-E	PCGS AU53	Heritage	July 2011
42	NA	1-C	PCGS AU58	Stack's	June 2009
43	NA	2-A	Raw MS60	Stack's	October 2008
44	NA	3-E	Raw AU58	Stack's	May 2008
45	NA	1-D	NGC AU55	Stack's	January 2008
46	NA	1-A	NGC AU55	Stack's	January 2007
47	NA	2-E	PCGS AU55	Stack's	January 2006
48	NA	2-E	NGC AU55	Stack's	December 2005
49	NA	2-C	NGC MS61	Stack's	June 2005
50	NA	3-C	NGC AU58	Stack's	March 2005
51	NA	2-E	PCGS AU55	Stack's	June 2004
52	NA	3-A	Raw AU53	Stack's	March 2009
53	NA	1-C	Raw AU53	Stack's	October 2008
54	NA	2-C	Raw AU53	Stack's	October 2007
55	NA	2-E	PCGS AU50	Stack's	August 2007
56	NA	2-E	PCGS AU50	Stack's	January 2007
57	NA	2-E	PCGS AU50	Stack's	June 2006
58	NA	2-E	PCGS AU50	Stack's	September 2003
59	1-D	1-C	NGC AU53	Heritage	January 2010
60	3-A	3-D	NGC AU53	Heritage	January 2006
61	1-C	1-C	PCGS AU53	Heritage	May 2004
62	1-C	1-C	NGC AU53	Heritage	September 2010
63	NA	3-D	PCGS AU50	Heritage	October 2001
64	NA	2-A	PCGS AU50	Heritage	January 2003
65	3-C	2-C	NGC AU50	Heritage	September 2010
66	1-D	1-D	NGC AU50	Heritage	June 2008
67	1-C	1-C	NGC AU50	Heritage	August 2011
68	1-D	1-D	PCGS AU50	Heritage	May 2007

ID	Die Marriage Reported	Petty	Certified Grade	Auction House	Date
69	3-C	2-C	NGC AU50	Heritage	August 2011
70	2-E	2-E	NGC AU50	Heritage	September 2007
71	1-C	1-C	ANACS AU50	Heritage	April 2006
72	NA	1-C	ANACS AU50	Heritage	January 2009
73	NA	2-A	ANACS AU50	Heritage	January 2005
74	NA	2-E	ANACS Net50	Heritage	November 2001
75	3-A	3-?	NGC AU50	Heritage	April 2010
76	NA	1-D	PCGS AU50	Heritage	August 2004
77	2-E	3-E	ANACS AU50	Heritage	February 2010
78	1-C	1-C	NGC AU50	Heritage	August 2011
79	NA	1-D	PCGS XF45	Heritage	January 2004
80	1-A	1-A	NGC XF45	Heritage	August 2011
81	2-E	2-E	PCGS XF45	Heritage	February 2009
82	3-A	3-A	ANACS XF45	Heritage	October 2006
83	2-E	3-C	ANACS XF45	Heritage	July 2006
84	2-E	3-E	PCGS XF45	Heritage	August 2004
85	3-C	2-C	PCGS XF45	Heritage	January 2010
86	NA	3-A	ANACS Net45	Heritage	May 2004
87	NA	3-A	PCGS XF45	Heritage	October 2002
88	NA	3-C	ANACS XF45	Heritage	January 2004
89	3-D	3-D	NGC XF45	Heritage	July 2011
90	NA	2-C	NGC MS61	DLRC	November 2004
91	NA	1-D	PCGS MS63	-	Legend Specimen
92	NA	1-C	NGC AU-55	-	Petty Specimen

Table 5 shows that 88 of the 92 coins presented in the table could be fully attributed. It was found that the reverses of the four coins with ID numbers 19, 25, 30 and 75 could not be positively identified. All four of these coins had mintmarks in odd positions and it is possible that they may be counterfeits. It was found that there were 15 pieces when the attribution given in the auction description was believed to be incorrect. The ID numbers for these coins are 11, 16, 28, 29, 40, 41, 59, 60, 65, 69, 75, 77, 83, 84 and 85.

The distribution of the obverses for the 88 coins that could be fully attributed in Table 5 is given in Table 6 below.

Table 6
Obverse Dies for the 88 Fully Attributed 1870-CC Seated Dollars

Obverse	Number	Percentage
Obverse 1	30	34.1
Obverse 2	43	48.9
Obverse 3	<u>15</u>	<u>17.0</u>
Total	88	100.0

The table shows that the most common obverse for the 1870-CC Seated dollars attributed in Table 5 was Obverse 2 with 48.9% of the coins identified as having this obverse. The rarest of the dies would be Obverse 3 with only 17.0% of the pieces identified with this obverse. Please remember that these percentages are based upon an analysis of only 88 coins of this date, a small percentage of the available coins of this issue.

The distribution of the reverses for the 88 coins that could be fully attributed in Table 5 is given in Table 7 below.

Table 7
Reverse Dies for the 88 Fully Attributed 1870-CC Seated Dollars

Reverse	Number	Percentage
Reverse A	13	14.8
Reverse B	1	1.1
Reverse C	29	33.0
Reverse D	17	19.3
Reverse E	<u>28</u>	<u>31.8</u>
Total	88	100.0

The table shows that the most common reverse for the 1870-CC dollar was Reverse C with 33.0% of the attributed coins having this reverse. Reverse E was very close in rarity with 31.8% of the attributed coins having this reverse. The rarest of the reverses would be Reverse B with only one coin attributed with this reverse or 1.1% of the total sample of 88 specimens. It should be noted that Reverse B is the die that was used to strike all known examples of the 1871-CC dollar.

It should be noted that of the 92 coins in this study sample, only 46 were attributed by the seller. It was found that either the obverse or the reverse was misattributed in 15 of these 46 cases, or 32.6% of the time. The most common error was attributing Obverse 2 as Obverse 3.

The attribution of the 88 fully attributable coins by die marriage is given in Table 8 below.

Table 8
Die Marriages for the 88 Fully Attributed 1870-CC Seated Dollars

Reverses	Obverses			Reverse
	Obverse 1	Obverse 2	Obverse 3	Total
Reverse A	5	4	4	13
Reverse B	-	1	-	1
Reverse C	11	14	4	29
Reverse D	14	-	3	17
Reverse E	-	24	4	28
Obverse Total	30	43	15	88

Table 4 previously listed the ten die marriages for this date that had been previously reported in the literature for the 1870-CC Seated dollar. A comparison of the information provided in Table 8 with the listing of the ten previously reported die marriages given in Table 4 has resulted in the following observations.

1. No examples of the 2-D die marriage were identified in this study even though this die marriage had been previously reported in the literature. This study cannot verify the existence of this die marriage.
2. Coins from die marriages 3-D and 3-E were identified even though these die marriages had not been previously reported in the literature.
3. The most common die marriages would be 1-C, 1-D, 2-C and 2-E with more than ten examples reported for each of these marriages.
4. The rare die marriages would be 1-A, 2-A, 2-B, 3-A, 3-C, 3-D and 3-E. No more than 5 examples of any of these dies marriages were reported in this study.
5. The rarest of all of the reported dies marriages would be 2-B with only one reported example. This coin was certified as PCGS MS63 and was sold by Heritage in their sale of February 15, 2007. The owner of this piece will be pleasantly surprised.
6. No examples of die marriages 1-B, 1-E or 3-B were identified in this study and none have been previously reported. This study cannot verify the existence of any of these three die marriages.

The percentages of the known die marriages for the 88 fully attributed coins in this study are given in Table 9 on the next page.

Table 9
Die Combination Percentages for the 88 Fully Attributed 1870-CC Seated Dollars

Reverses	Obverse 1	Obverses Obverse 2	Obverse 3	Reverse Percentage
Reverse A	5.68	4.54	4.55	14.77
Reverse B	0.00	1.14	0.00	1.14
Reverse C	12.50	15.91	4.54	32.95
Reverse D	15.91	0.00	3.41	19.32
Reverse E	0.00	27.27	4.55	31.82
Obverse Percentage	34.09	48.86	17.05	100.00

The percentages in Table 9 show that examples of the 1870-CC Seated dollar struck from all three obverses known for this issue would be available to the interested collector with an example struck from Obverse 3 being the most difficult to obtain. The table also shows that examples struck from four of the five reverse dies known for this issue would also be reasonably available to the interested collector. However, 1870-CC dollars struck from Reverse B appear to be extremely rare based upon the results of the study that I have made using 88 fully attributed coins from this issue. While examples struck from all of the coinage dies known for this issue except for Reverse B would be available for purchase by the interested collector, it is possible that some of the die pairs would be elusive due to the fact that nearly 72% of the coins attributed for this study were examples of the four relatively common die marriages identified as 1-C, 1-D, 2-C and 2-E. While no examples of die marriage 2-D were identified in this study, this die combination had been previously reported in the numismatic literature.

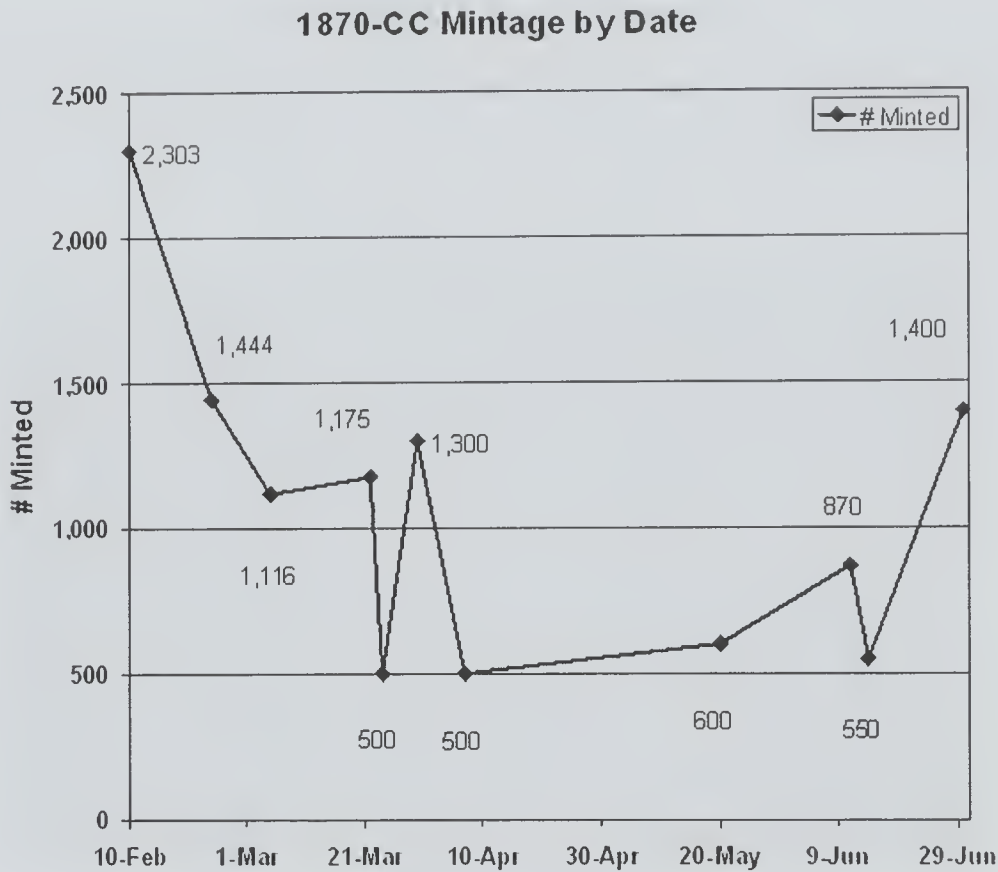
Randy Wiley presented a table in Issue #42 of the journal showing the dates that Seated dollars were delivered at the Carson City branch mint in 1870 along with the number of coins produced during each of these mintage sessions. This data was extracted from mint records and is shown in Table 10 below.

Table 10
Seated Dollar Coinage at the Carson City Branch Mint for the Year 1870

Delivery Date	Number	Delivery Date	Number
February 10	2303	April 7	500
February 24	1444	May 20	600
March 5	1116	June 11	870
March 22	1175	June 14	550
March 24	500	June 30	1400
March 30	1300	Total	11,758

Table 10 shows 11 different delivery dates for the 1870-CC Seated dollar with a total mintage of 11,758 coins. Earlier work published in the Gobrecht Journal reported the existence of 10 different die marriages for this issue. The current study identified examples of 11 different die marriages with a 12th die marriage that was previously reported but unverified in this study.

This data has also been presented in a graph showing the number of pieces minted by delivery date. It was hoped that the number of die marriages for this issue would match the number of delivery dates but this appears not to be the case. It is not unreasonable to expect that not all of the coins produced during each of the periods between delivery dates would have been produced from the same die pair.



Delivery Dates for 1870-CC Seated Dollars

Analysis of Raw 1870-CC Seated Dollar with Unusual Obverse Markings

My purchase of a raw 1870-CC Seated dollar from Dick Osburn Rare Coins in March 2009 with a series of unusual obverse markings led me to develop a completely new method for identifying the coinage dies of this issue. I developed this new attribution method so that I could confidently identify the die marriage of any high grade 1870-CC Seated dollar. I then proceeded to analyze the dies for a sample of 92 coins of this date from the photographs of high grade specimens that have appeared at auction in recent years. This analysis led to the identification of coins from 11 different die marriages for the 1870-CC dollar, confirming that each of these die marriages actually exist. This analysis on the 92 coins also provided rarity estimates for each of the die marriages that were identified in the study. The 2-D die marriage had been previously reported in the numismatic literature but no examples of this die marriage were identified in this study. Examples of this unobserved die marriage could still exist since this study only included a small sample of the total number of 1870-CC dollars that are known to exist.

Quality photographs of the obverse and reverse of my new coin were taken and then the projection lines added to the photographs. The Date Number 1 Projection Line on the obverse of the subject coin passes through a dentil below the date and then extends up through the top right corner of the shield. This is clearly an example of Obverse 3, the date far right variety with the projection line also extending up through the right side of the T in LIBERTY.

For the reverse of the subject coin the Letter E Projection Line passes just to the right of the left C in the mintmark while the Letter D Projection Line passes just to the right of the right C in the mintmark. The Bottom of the Mintmark Projection Line passes through the 8 o'clock position on the left side of the letter O in ONE, intersects the L in DOL just to the left of its top right corner and passes over the top edge of the period after DOL. The projection lines thus indicate that this coin was struck from Reverse B. The attribution method would thus identify the subject coin as an example



Obverse of Unusual 1870-CC Seated Dollar Identified as Obverse 3



Reverse of Unusual 1870-CC Seated Dollar Identified as Reverse B

of the 3-B die marriage for the 1870-CC Seated dollar. A study of Table 4 and Table 8 presented earlier in this article will show that any coin with Reverse B is very elusive. While the subject coin has been identified as an example of the 3-B die marriage, the two data tables show that both of these dies have been previously reported in the literature but not in the combination illustrated on the subject coin.

Unusual Die Lines on 1870-CC Seated Dollar from Die Marriage 3-B

Illustrated below is a photograph of the subject coin overlaid with white line segments showing the presence of raised die lines on the surface of my recently purchased 1870-CC Seated dollar. These marks appear to be raised with no evidence of backfilled material on the side of the ridge that might signify raised metal from contact with another object. The strongest of these die lines is a raised smooth arc running through the left obverse field just to the left of Liberty's lower arm. There are also a number of small raised line segments extending out into the field from Liberty's hair toward her hand on the pole. There are also two small raised line segments extending out into the field from under the rocky base to the right of Liberty's toes. A small raised line segment extends out from a right side point on the 7th star to the left of Liberty's head. Two short raised line segments extend out into the field from the top of the raised arc segment in the left field. Three short raised line segments can be seen in the field between the rock and the dentils below the 1st star. Four short raised line segments can be seen in the field to the left of the date close to the rocky base. A small raised line segment extends out from the upper left serif of the 1 in the date.

Some or all of these die lines may be present on other examples of the 3-B die marriage. Some of these die lines may also be present on coins from other die marriages that were struck using Obverse 3. All five die marriages struck from Obverse 3 are scarce but the die lines on Obverse 3 could have appeared over time with additional use of this die while striking 1870-CC dollars. It is likely that most if not all of the raised die lines described for Obverse 3 were the result of contact with abrasive material on the surface of the die while it was being polished between uses.



Obverse of 1870-CC Seated Dollar with Line Segments Showing Location of Raised Lines on Coin



**Unusual 1870-CC Seated
Dollar with Raised Line in
left Obverse Field**



**Unusual 1870-CC Seated
Dollar with Raised Lines in
Field to Right of Hair**



**Unusual 1870-CC Seated
Dollar with Raised Line
from Right Point of Star 7**

Discussion

This paper was written as a result of my purchase of an interesting 1870-CC Seated dollar in March 2009 with unusual obverse die markings that I had not previously seen on a coin of this issue. A detailed review of the existing literature on the attribution of Carson City Seated dollars convinced me that I would need to develop a new method of attribution if I hoped to quickly attribute coins from this issue. I needed quality pictures of high grade 1870-CC dollars to develop and test my attribution techniques so I downloaded images of 92 examples of the 1870-CC dollar from the Heritage, Stack's and David Lawrence auction archives. This auction research provided me with an opportunity to refine my attribution method, estimate the relative rarity of the die marriages for this issue and finally provide me with a reliable method to identify the die marriage of the coin that I recently purchased with the unusual obverse markings. From this research I was able to determine that the unusual coin that I had recently purchased was an example of the 3-B die marriage, a die pairing that had not been previously reported in the literature. I was also able to conclude that Obverse 3 was paired with all five of the reverses known to have been used to strike Carson City Seated dollars and that all of these die marriages are rare. It should also be noted that Reverse B was used to strike all known examples of the 1871-CC Seated dollar.

One important part of this research work was the attribution of 92 examples of the 1870-CC Seated dollar from Heritage, Stack's and David Lawrence auctions. These coins were graded between XF and Mint State with some specimens cleaned or otherwise not slabable. These pieces were selected because photographs of these coins were available and they were in sufficiently high grades so that the features needed for attribution were still visible. Analysis of this attribution study identified two die marriages, 3-D and 3-E, not previously reported and a previously reported die marriage, 2-D, that could not be verified to exist from this attribution study. This analysis is limited by the number of coins attributed as compared to the total number of pieces in the population of this date. Using PCGS and NGC population reports, it appears that I have attributed about 16.3% of the known 1870-CC Seated dollars. This estimate however does not account for resubmissions to the grading services or coins that have been graded by other third party grading services and it also does not account for pieces that have not yet been graded by any service. However, in the Fall-Winter 2011 issue of Curry's Chronicle, Rusty Goe gives a survival estimate from 500 to 650 pieces for the 1870-CC Seated dollar in all grades. This would imply that the 92 pieces in my attribution study would represent approximately 15% of the existing coins of this issue.

Using this new attribution process, it was found to be relatively easy to attribute the three known obverse dies used to strike 1870-CC Seated dollars. Attributions can be quickly made by using a line drawn through the center of the number 1 in the date by observing its interception position on the dentils below, its location relative to the T in LIBERTY and its location relative to the upper right corner of the shield. Despite this easy attribution process, it appears that many past cataloguers have misattributed Obverse 2 coins by identifying them as having Obverse 3.

While it was found to be relatively easy to attribute the obverse dies using the technique developed in this study, it was found that proper attribution of the five reverse dies was much more difficult. This was particularly true in determining whether a specimen was struck from Reverse B or Reverse E. Careful use of the three projection lines described in this report is sufficient to identify each of the reverse dies, but this

method is still somewhat complex and requires magnification of the reverse image to ensure a proper identification.

The coin with the unusual obverse die scratches that prompted this research appears to be an example of die marriage 3-B that had not been previously reported in the numismatic literature. It is likely that the obverse die scratches visible on this coin resulted in the early retirement of Obverse 3 while it was being used with Reverse B. This obverse could have been polished to remove the remains of many of these scratches and then used again with one of the other available reverse dies. At this point nobody knows if other examples of the 3-B die pair will surface as collectors study their coins of this issue looking for the die scratches seen on this discovery specimen.

The author welcomes your thoughts and criticisms of this research project. I would hope that observations and suggestions by other numismatic scholars will lead to further discoveries on examples of the 1870-CC dollar, the first Seated dollar struck at the new Carson City branch mint.

Special Thanks and Dedication

I would like to extend special thanks to Bradley Karoleff and Leonard Augsburg, both of whom took the time to review draft copies of this paper.

This paper is dedicated to my son Mark Petty, who took the photographs of the coins illustrated in this paper. He was a budding young numismatist who died unexpectedly from complications of Crohn's disease at the age of 21 on September 3, 2011 while interning at Stack's-Bowers in New York City.



Important Seated Coinage from the New Orleans Branch Mint for Sale

These coins are from my collection, graded by PCGS,
problem-free and toned medium gray unless otherwise noted.

HALF DIMES

1838-O	VG-8		\$175
1839-O	VF-20. V-1 Large O. A nice problem free coin that is described in Blythe's half dime book as "very rare and usually found in low grades".	4250	
1839-O	XF-45. A nice problem free coin, V-5.	150	
1840-O	NGC AU details, improperly cleaned. This coin is the transitional V-6 variety with the No Drapery obverse paired with the Open Bud reverse. Little or no wear is present on the coin, but the obverse appears to be lightly wiped underneath the medium tan toning. An appealing coin that appears to have no problems at first glance.	2250	
1844-O	PCGS genuine, smoothed AU details. Small o without the typically rotated reverse. As such, rare with the coin "turn". This half dime has medium reddish brown toning. The coin is somewhat glossy, apparently from the polishing or smoothing, with some surface marks and roughness.	900	
1850-O	VF-30 with light silvery gray toning. Rare variety with Small o reverse, V-4.	750	

DIMES

1839-O	VF-20. Dark gray toning. This dime is the late die state Huge O variety, F-108a, with the slightly rotated reverse.	\$650	
1839-O	PCGS genuine, cleaning - XF details. This is another F-108a coin with the slightly rotated reverse. It is well struck with a strong Liberty and nearly full shield lines. Fine hairlines can be seen under the gray toning.	450	
1840-O	XF-45. Medium O, F-106. The rarest mintmark size for this underrated date. Medium gray toning with a bit of color. Some light ticks, but nothing major.	850	
1841-O	VG-8. This is the rarest of the two transitional Closed Bud reverses with the Small o, F-102. Rated as R-7+ by Fortin.	1750	
1842-O	XF-40. Later die state of F-107, but probably not late enough to be called an F-107a.	375	
1858-O	AU-55.	350	

QUARTERS

1840-O	VF-25, With Drapery. This is the rare transitional Large O reverse With Drapery quarter. This variety is much rarer than the well publicized 1854-O Huge O quarter. A problem free coin.	\$4500	
1840-O	XF-45 NGC. Small o.	325	
1843-O	F-15. This is the Large O variety.	1250	

HALF DOLLARS

1840-O	XF-40. WB-5. Medium gray toning with some nice pastel accents.	\$225	
1840-O	F-12. WB-6 conservatively rated as an R-6 by Bugert, but the current population indicates R-7.	450	
1840 (O)	G-6, reverse of 1838. WB-12 conservatively rated as an R-6 by Bugert, but like the WB-6, current population indicates R-7. Much rarer than the other medium letter die marriage.	450	
1841-O	XF-40. WB-7.	275	

Inquiries and orders must be placed by emailing craig@eberhart.us. I can occasionally be contacted by phone at (505) 695-4179, but email takes precedence. Coins sold on a first-come first-served basis. Payment by personal check or money order only. For shipping and handling, please add \$10 on orders under \$1000 and \$20 on orders of \$1000 or more. Returns allowed within 15 days after my original shipping date. Advance email notification of returns requested. All coins kept in bank vault and not available for imaging.

Craig Eberhart • LSCC #1348

Revisiting the Estimated Population of Certified Choice AU Rare Date Liberty Seated Dollars

by

Greg Shishmanian

Nearly two decades have passed since my first article on the estimated population of certified choice about uncirculated Liberty Seated dollars was published in Issue #60 of the journal. The population estimates in this article are based on the June 2012 population data for coins certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) and the Numismatic Guarantee Corporation (NGC). Finally, I will analyze the Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) population data and present my conclusions.

I am revisiting this topic because many Seated dollars have been certified since my last article was published in July 1994. In addition, I have made three changes in this article that will increase the accuracy of my estimates. First, I did not include American Numismatic Association Certification Service (ANACS) population data. In recent years I have seen very few nice choice AU Seated dollars certified by ANACS. This is partially due to the fact that many of the nice ANACS coins have been crossed over and certified by the top two grading services. Second, I did not include coins graded AU-50 or AU-53. I eliminated these grades because I have examined too many coins in this grade range that have been net graded because of hairline scratches, poor luster, and/or large marks. Therefore they do not meet my standards for a choice AU coin. Third, I increased the number of common dates in the series from 8 to 12. To determine the rare date choice AU population I subtracted the coins certified for the 12 most common dates in the series from the total population of all 44 dates. Each of these 12 dates has a choice AU population of over 100 pieces and they are as follows: 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1850, 1859-O, 1860-O, 1871 and 1872.

Table 1 shows my estimates based on the total certified population of all 44 dates in the series graded AU-55 or AU-58 by PCGS and NGC. These two companies have graded a total of 4000 coins divided almost equally between them. I often wonder how many of the same coins have been graded by both services. I estimate that about 20% of the total certified population is due to resubmissions. I therefore believe that the current population report is artificially inflated by about 800 coins. The table also includes the number of coins certified by CAC for the common dates and the rare dates as defined above.

Table 1

PCGS & NGC Certified Population of AU-55 & AU-58 Liberty Seated Dollars

Grading Service	PCGS	NGC	TOTAL	CAC
Total Graded AU-55 & AU-58	1938	2062	4000	140
12 Most Common Dates	1060	1315	2375	75
AU Total – 12 Common Dates	878	747	1625	65

An adjustment in the AU population for the 32 rare dates will be made to account for the fact that the current totals include resubmissions to the grading services. I have estimated a resubmission rate of about 20% for coins in the rare date category. The estimated certified population reduced by the resubmissions is given in Table 2 below.

Table 2			
Estimated Certified Population of Rare Dates in AU-55 & AU-58 Grades			
Grading Service	PCGS	NGC	TOTAL
AU Total for 32 Rare Dates	878	747	1625
Estimated 20% Resubmissions	<u>176</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>325</u>
Estimated Rare Date Population	702	598	1300

After subtracting out the resubmissions the remaining 32 rare dates have an estimated population of 1300 coins. Knowledgeable numismatists will often differentiate between the certified population and the natural problem free certified population. Therefore I have split the estimated rare date population into four unique groups by estimating the percentage of coins in each group. These percentages are based on the combined experience of several veteran numismatists. The results are given in Table 3 below.

Table 3			
Estimated Rare Date Population for AU Coins in Four Unique Groups			
Grading Service	PCGS	NGC	TOTAL
Estimated Rare Date Population	702	598	1300
Estimated 30% Not Original	211	179	390
Estimated 20% Poor Eye Appeal	140	120	260
Estimated 30% Acceptable	211	179	390
Estimated 20% Premium Quality	140	120	260

The Not Original group contains cleaned and/or re-toned coins. Coins in the Poor Eye Appeal group have undesirable characteristics such as large or multiple surface abrasions, dull luster, a weak strike, or unattractive toning. The number of Acceptable and Premium Quality (PQ) choice AU rare date Seated dollars is estimated to be only 650 coins as shown in Table 4 below. That is an increase of 349 coins over the total given in Issue #60 of the journal in July 1994. Of course these coins are not equally distributed among the 32 rare dates.

Table 4			
Estimated Population of Acceptable and Premium Quality Seated Dollars			
Grading Service	PCGS	NGC	TOTAL
Estimated Certified Population	351	299	650
Estimated Acceptable	211	179	390
Estimated Premium Quality	140	120	260

As of June 2012 CAC has approved 723 Liberty Seated dollars from the 1785 submitted in all grades. Of those, 341 were graded AU-55 or AU-58 and only 140 met or exceeded CAC standards. This represents a 41.1 percent approval rate, which falls within my estimate of less than 50 percent.

My experience as a CAC collector member has confirmed that CAC standards are much stricter than any of the third party grading services. CAC strict standards are the reason why I believe their population data is a much more accurate measurement of the natural problem free certified population of coins that are solid or PQ for their grade than the entire certified population. Subtracting the same 12 common dates from the CAC population leaves a meager 65 CAC approved coins distributed over the remaining 32 dates. Certainly the CAC population will increase over time but even if the number of CAC approved rare date Seated dollars triples to 195 over a period of many years, this would represent only an average of about 6 coins per date for the 32 rare dates in the Liberty Seated dollar series.

CAC has now been open for nearly 5 years. During that time only 8.5 percent of the choice AU certified population has been submitted to CAC. Although this is a small sample it clearly supports my experience indicating that only about half of the certified population of Liberty Seated dollars are natural problem free specimens that are solid or PQ for their grade. I suspect that during the early years of CAC many numismatists were submitting their highest quality specimens. A random sampling of Liberty Seated dollars will almost certainly yield even lower approval rates.

The choice AU population has significantly increased from 1359 to 4000 coins during the past 18 years. More importantly the estimated population of natural problem free specimens that are solid or PQ for their grade increased from 301 to 650 coins. This increase in natural problem free coins was even greater than my estimate due to the three changes I described earlier in this article. These changes would have lowered the number of available coins in 1994.

I am convinced that the popularity and demand for this series and grade range has increased with many new collectors now seeking choice AU Seated dollars. In addition, long-time numismatists are more focused on quality than ever before placing a much greater demand on solid and premium quality coins for their grade. Purchasing high quality natural Liberty Seated dollars requires more patience than ever as the opportunities to purchase them become less frequent. Recently I have observed prices for rare date Seated dollars beginning to rise reflecting this intensified focus on quality during a period of increasing demand.

II

The Mystery of the 1856 Overdate Dollar

by

Dick Osburn and Brian Cushing

Many collectors already know that we are committed to developing a reference text for the Liberty Seated Dollar series. Our goal is to create a source of information similar to the wonderful works done by Gerry Fortin for dimes and by Bill Bugert with Randy Wiley for half dollars. We plan both a website, similar to the one developed by Gerry Fortin, and a paper book like those issued by Bill Bugert. The target is to have the website on-line by the spring of 2013. Initially it will only be sparsely populated, possibly with a limited number of years listed. We'll continue to populate it as we complete the work on individual dates and mintmarks and as new die marriages are found and photographed. The book will be a much more demanding project, with a target date for publication being the summer of 2016. Hopefully by the time it's published, we'll have documented at least 90% of the existing die marriages for the Seated dollar series.

Our effort started at the 2011 ANA convention in Chicago. Since then we've been studying as many Seated dollars as possible and documenting the characteristics of each die. There are a lot of potential sources for dollars to study. The primary ones we're using or will use are listed below, with a few comments as appropriate:

Liberty Seated Dollar Sources

1. Coins coming through the Dick Osburn Rare Coins inventory. Since Seated dollars have been the most popular series at Dick Osburn Rare Coins for the past several years we have had many opportunities to examine coins from this series. This is one of our most desirable sources, since we have plenty of time to study these coins and to obtain quality pictures.
2. Coins offered to us at shows and through other sources. At a typical national show we are offered as many as 100 Seated dollars, many of which we don't buy directly.
3. Coins available for viewing in dealer inventories at shows. This can be very time-consuming at large shows, and not all dealers are happy having us take their time to identify die marriages at their table. We use this source as opportunities arise.
4. Coins offered at auctions where we can view the coins directly. This is an excellent source, since the viewing can be a little more relaxed than when we're taking up space at a dealer's table. Moreover, pictures are usually available from the auction house when we find something interesting.
5. Coins pictured in auction archives. Many of these pictures don't allow for identification of specific dies, but some taken with high resolution allow for die identification with a high success rate. Most of the Heritage pictures taken since 2006 are among those auction archive pictures with high resolution. Heritage alone has nearly 10,000 Seated dollars in their auction archives. Mining this single data source may take as long as two years.

6. Existing collections. We haven't started using this source yet, but we've had a lot of collectors volunteer their coins for study. We expect to begin this effort after we've had 18 months or so to refine our database.

In addition to using these six sources of data we're assembling a die marriage reference set for those years with multiple die marriages. Even with high resolution pictures it's often impossible to eliminate all uncertainty in identifying a particular die. It's necessary to have coins on hand for comparison. The reference set will give us coins that will allow us to make those comparisons. And hopefully, since the number of Seated dollar dies is very limited relative to the other Liberty Seated series, we can put the set together without being forced to rob a bank or win the lottery.

We hope that by the time we reach our target date for publication of the book we will have found and documented 90% or more of the existing die marriages. We're not naïve enough to think that we'll ever get them all.

1856 Seated Dollars

At Dick Osburn Rare Coins we have been handling Seated dollars for over 15 years. In that time we have probably examined over 100 examples of the 1856 business strike Seated dollar. We don't recall ever seeing one that didn't exhibit a fine die line in the upper loop of the 6 in the date. Based upon this recollection our assumption has been that 1856 dollars were minted from only two die pairs, one pair for business strikes and another for proofs. So far we have found nothing to contradict this assumption although Walter Breen states that 5 die pairs were used to strike coins of this issue in his encyclopedia that was published in 1988. To date we have found no evidence to support this claim.

Walter Breen also identifies an overdate variety for this date, one that he calls an 1856/4 variety. Apparently he, and/or others before him, assumed that the die line in the upper loop of the 6 was the remains of an earlier 4 punch. He lists the variety as rare, with a rarity estimate of R7. Our research would list this variety as R3, since



Date on Early Die State 1856 Seated Dollar

it appears that all business strike coins came from this die. The 1856/4 variety has disappeared from references and auction catalogs, so apparently later scholars have assumed that the die line was just that, a die line, not the remains of a 4 punch below the 6 in the date.

During the March 2011 Whitman Expo in Baltimore we had the opportunity to examine and purchase a very attractive 1856 dollar in an ANACS AU58 holder. We immediately noticed that the coin exhibited the normally seen die line in the upper loop of the 6, but also noticeable were other artifacts of an earlier digit punch. The picture shows the date area on the early die state 1856 dollar purchased at the Baltimore show. Die lines can be seen extending from the denticles below the 6. These are very weak on most 1856 dollars. Also seen are artifacts of the original digit punch extending into the fields from the lower left and upper left side of the 6. The die line within the upper loop of the 6 is heavier than what we see on normal 1856 dollars, and shows a very slight curve. Our first assumption was that the line extending into the field from the lower left loop of the 6 was the remains of the base of the original 4, with this very early die state coin showing parts of the 4 that aren't visible on the normally seen later die states.

We were fortunate to have this coin and a later die state example available at the Seated half dollar summit at the Bugert home during the week after the Baltimore show. We showed both coins to Bill and Randy, and got some high-powered help in analyzing the under-digit. Bill took the photo shown above, then found a similar photograph of an 1854 dollar. We quickly concluded that the under-digit could not be a 4. It just doesn't match! We also tried overlaying the 1855 date. That didn't work either! After examining the coin closely Randy suggested that the under-digit might be a rotated 6. Bill used his photo-shop capability to overlay a 6 onto the picture and rotate it as appropriate. The second photograph shows the result with a rotated 6 overlaid onto the final digit of the early die state 1856 dollar. With proper rotation the fit is perfect!



A Rotated 6 Overlaid on the Final Digit of an 1856 Seated Dollar

Apparently when the 1856 die was prepared the 6 was inadvertently punched into the die with a clockwise rotation of approximately 45 degrees. The digit was then corrected to the proper position and the die polished to remove evidence of the original punch. The first effort at polishing off the original 6 wasn't completely successful. The artifacts visible on our early die state coin still remained. This was noted after a number of coins were struck, and the die was polished again, removing all evidence except the faint die line in the upper loop of the 6. The die was then used to strike all remaining coins issued that year. The reverse die exhibits light peripheral cracks even on the early die state coin, indicating that the number struck before the second polishing was enough to allow the die to crack, or that the die is transitional with one of the earlier years in the series.

After returning from the show and the Seated half dollar summit we did some research in the Heritage auction archives. We found 80 pictures of 1856 dollars in the auction archives. Over half of the pictures were of limited resolution, or were too dark or too low grade to allow confirmation of the die state. After studying the 30 pictures for which we could confirm the die state, we found three that represented an early state similar to our coin. All three exhibited the cracked reverse die. Based on this data and our experience with this date we believe that the early die state is rare, representing possibly 15% or less of the mintage for the year. As such we've assigned it an R5 as a die state, with the 1856 dollar being R2+ as a date. A very early die state coin, without reverse die cracks would be even rarer if it does indeed exist.

It is possible that Walter Breen's research identified the early die state as an 1856/4 overdate variety with the later die state classified as a normal date 1856 dollar. That would explain his listing of the overdate as rare compared to the normal date. We still have no reasonable explanation for how he arrived at a total of 5 die marriages for the 1856 dollar.

Our thanks to Bill Bugert for the pictures included with this article, and to both Bill and Randy Wiley for their help in analyzing the under-date.

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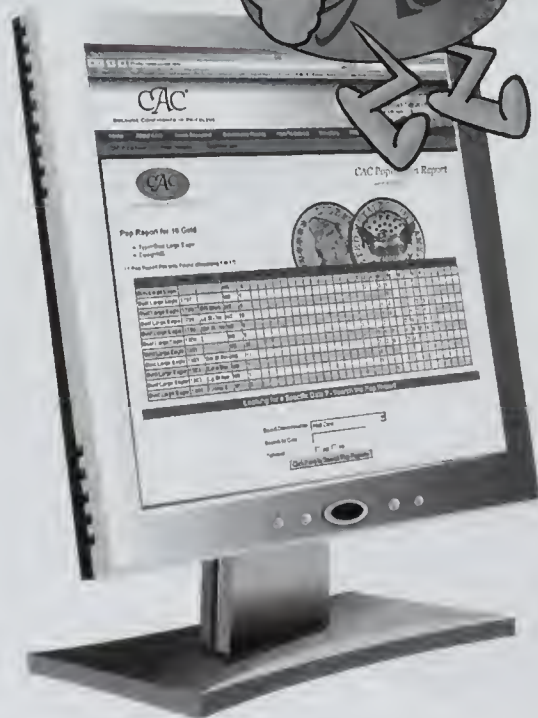
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A Double Struck 1865 Seated Dime

At the recent ANA Convention in Philadelphia during August 2012 I had an opportunity to study an 1865 Seated dime that had been double struck. There were several places on the obverse showing the remains of a previous image through the field of the coin. The most obvious area of doubling was through Liberty's head with a weak facial image to the left of a head with full facial definition. There was a clear line separating the two facial images that would appear to represent a feature impressed by the obverse die. There was also a line showing the remains of an extra upper arm extending into the field to the left of Miss Liberty. Additional strong doubling could be seen through the cap on the right side of the coin. Here again there was a weak image followed by a sharp line that separated the weak and strong images on the cap. There was doubling on the hand holding the pole and another sharp line running down through the gown to Miss Liberty's foot. This line was most likely the result of the obverse die striking the original image on the coin.

I was able to purchase this piece from Brian Greer at a reasonable price and was very pleased to add such an interesting coin to my collection. Further study revealed something about my new purchase that I did not initially observe. I took a closer look at the date and noticed a number of small line segments that I believe could be the remains of an earlier date that was on the coin before the second strike.

I would be interested in any comments that readers might have about this piece. I am sure that there are other doubled features that I might have missed. I would like to add that there is no evidence of doubling on the reverse and the reeding appears to be normal for a coin of this date.

Jason Feldman
LSCC #2003



A Double Struck 1865 Seated Dime

Early Branch Mint Coinage

I read with great interest the article “New Orleans Branch Mint Coinage, 1838 to 1861” by Club President John McCloskey that appeared in Issue #114 of the journal. The author commented that he would publish the contents of any historical documents that would explain the coinage patterns that he reported for gold and silver coinage at the southern branch mints before the Civil War. However, I don’t believe that there is a need to refer to correspondences between Mint officials to explain most of the antebellum mintage patterns at the New Orleans Branch Mint.

My general understanding is that the branch mints were managed rather independently during this period and that coins were generally produced in response to bullion deposits and the requests of depositors. Therefore, the denominations struck at the Charlotte or Dahlonega Branch Mints would not have had any effect on which denominations were struck at the New Orleans Branch Mint.

The New Orleans Mint enjoyed spikes in gold deposits in 1847 and 1851 which I believe account for a spike in the gold eagle mintage in 1847 and in the double eagle mintage in 1851. The gold eagle coin was the largest circulating gold denomination in 1847 and the double eagle would have been the largest circulating gold denomination in 1851. Striking large quantities of these coins in 1847 and 1851 would have been the easiest way for the mint to convert gold deposits into circulating coinage for their depositors. The mint also enjoyed several spikes in silver deposits including a bulge from 1843 to 1850 which I believe accounts for the increased mintage of half dollars during this period.

Another consideration in the production of coinage at the New Orleans Branch Mint was that it employed only three coinage presses until about 1845 when a fourth press was acquired. As a result of the varying size of the presses, when the largest press was occupied striking half dollars, it would not have been available to strike gold eagles. A gold depositor would therefore be required to wait until a press was available to strike eagle coins or he might be willing to accept smaller denomination coins struck from his bullion. I believe this manufacturing limitation played a substantial role in a spike in the quarter eagle mintage in 1843 when the Mint’s largest press was busy striking half dollars.

Maximilian F. Bonzano was appointed to a position as Special Agent responsible for the New Orleans Mint after the Civil War and was previously Melter & Refiner at the New Orleans Branch Mint from 1849 to 1861. In a letter to Mint Director Henry Linderman dated July 24, 1868 he included an inventory of the equipment at the branch Mint as follows: “Presses – One large press for double eagles, dollars, half-dollars, and eagles; in perfect order. One for half-dollars, eagles, half-eagles, and quarters; in perfect order. One for half and quarter-eagles, dimes; in perfect order. One for gold dollars, dimes, and half-dimes; also in perfect order.” This inventory clearly shows that sometimes only one but no more than two presses were set aside to strike the different denominations of gold and silver coinage produced at the New Orleans Branch Mint during the years prior to the Civil War.

David Ginsburg
LSCC #1813

Acquiring an Original 1851 Liberty Seated Dollar

by

Greg Shishmanian

My heart began to race when I saw an 1851 Liberty Seated dollar up for auction about two years ago. This date is extremely rare in low grades and it commands strong prices when offered for sale. I had convinced myself that my set of Seated dollars would not contain an example of this rarity due to its high price. However, I was confident that I could afford to purchase the holed example that was currently being offered at auction. The question was, would I be happy with a holed coin in my collection?

I have always tried to purchase problem free specimens with natural toning for my collection. This coin had an original strike and it was housed in a PCGS Genuine holder. Best of all it had choice about uncirculated details and its surfaces displayed a deep natural patina making it an excellent match for my set. The hole was carefully made and located between the 10th and 11th stars to ensure that the reverse legend was not disturbed.

I called the owner of the coin and we had a nice conversation. He knew his coin was very rare, but he did not know its market value. I asked how and where he acquired the piece. He explained that he was an antique dealer and employed several pickers who purchased items for him. This rare dollar had been found in a box of coins that had been purchased at an auction in a small New Jersey town. His story sounded credible and he offered me a return privilege, so I decided to bid on the coin. If I won this piece in the auction, he said that he would allow me to pick it up and pay for it in person. He asked that I pay cash on delivery. I definitely wasn't comfortable meeting someone for the first time with that much cash in my pocket. We agreed that I would bring some cash and pay the balance with a bank check.



Original AU 1851 Seated Dollar that Has Been Holed

I checked on-line and found there was a branch of my bank located about ten miles from the restaurant where we agreed to meet.

The day of the auction finally arrived and I realized that this might be my only chance to own an example of this rarity and complete my set of Seated dollars without breaking the bank. I decided to place a strong bid for the coin and won the lot with a five-figure bid. I was very pleased that night, but the following day I wondered if I had over paid. After all, how many people would be crazy enough to pay five-figures for a holed coin?

My wife and I drove to New Jersey and met the seller and his associate at the designated Cracker Barrel restaurant for breakfast. Before getting out of the car I took the envelope containing the bank check from the glove compartment and placed it inside a folder with two invoices that were ready for signatures.

We entered the restaurant and I went directly to the men's room. I placed the folder on a shelf and took care of business. Shortly after we were seated the owner handed me the coin. After a quick inspection I knew that this piece was a keeper! I was very excited; I opened the folder to get the bank check but it was not there. At first I thought that I had left it in the glove compartment so I excused myself and went out to the car. I felt a surge of panic when I saw the glove compartment was empty. Then I remembered taking it with me into the bathroom. As I entered the bathroom and saw the shelf was empty, my heart sank! How was I going to explain to someone I just met that I had lost the check? This man was big and I didn't want to make him angry. Then I remembered that I had removed the envelope from the folder and slipped it into the inside pocket of my jacket for safekeeping.

I returned to the table, regained my composure, and handed the cash and the bank check to the owner. He looked it over and said, "I thought you would bring more cash, this is a problem." I reminded him that I wasn't comfortable carrying that much cash and would drive to the bank with him to verify the funds. He explained that he did not have the time to make the 45 minute trip. I asked him why it would take so long. He indicated that we would have to cross the bridge and traffic was very heavy at this time of day. I reassured him that my check was good and suggested that he call some of my references. He said that he was a very good judge of character and knew that my check was good. Then he looked me in the eye and said "I don't want to have to come to Virginia if it isn't."

On our drive home my wife spotted a sign for a casino in Delaware and asked if we could stop. I agreed to stop as long as it wasn't too far off the highway. We exited the highway and it was only a few minutes until we walked into the casino. After an hour or two she was up about nine hundred dollars and I suggested we hit the road. I thanked her for coming with me and we agreed that her winnings were icing on the cake and a good way to end our trip.

I took several color images of my new purchase to the next Baltimore show. I was curious to see how other experts would react to this coin and its purchase price. I was a bit anxious when I handed the coin to a longtime friend and dealer who I consider to be extremely knowledgeable. He studied my coin very closely and asked how much I paid for it. I explained that I had paid a strong price to obtain it. He repeated, how much? I told him the purchase price and he replied, "If you ever want to sell it, I will pay you a nice profit." I was pleasantly surprised by his offer! Later I learned that there are other collectors who will pay strong prices for key date coins that have been holed.

Several friends have urged me to have my holed 1851 dollar repaired. They're convinced that plugging the hole will significantly increase the value of my coin. Perhaps they're right, but I've decided to leave the repair to a future owner. Plugs must be expertly done and nearly invisible to be acceptable to me. A hole is part of a coin's history; sometimes a hole can tell you something about a coin. The key factor influencing my decision is that I'm convinced that the natural surfaces of this coin would be lost forever due to the heating and tooling required during the repair process. As the current owner and caretaker of this specimen, I don't want to be responsible for the loss of its beautiful natural patina.

I'm very happy that I purchased this holed coin and completed my set of Seated dollars. My experience over the past few decades has taught me a very important lesson; we only get so many opportunities to purchase rarities like this 1851 Seated dollar. You just never know when another opportunity to purchase a numismatic rarity of this stature will come along once again.



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The San Francisco Mint Coinage of 1872

by

John McCloskey

Soon after the discovery of gold in central California in 1848 thousands of adventures sailed into the port of San Francisco seeking their fortune in the gold fields along the tributaries of the Sacramento River. The area around San Francisco grew rapidly as a commercial center, expanding from a population of about 1500 early in 1849 to over 25,000 just a year later.

Many early arrivals to the gold fields were quickly rewarded for their efforts with ample surface gold available in the surrounding streams. This gold could be easily extracted using a simple sheet iron pan measuring from 10 to 14 inches across with sides four inches high and extending outward at an angle. Gold bearing dirt and gravel would be taken from the stream bed, mixed with water and then swirled around in a rotary manner until the lighter material had been ejected. However, most of the readily available surface gold had been taken from the stream beds during the first two years of the gold rush so that late arrivals to the mining camps were often forced to dig several feet below the surface before new unprocessed dirt could be found. Under these conditions, many adventurers found that it was more profitable to operate businesses selling goods and services to other miners than to engage in mining itself.

The gold rush drew a large number of people to the city of San Francisco and greatly expanded its importance as a commercial center on the western frontier. This rapid development resulted in the admission of California to the union in September 1850, after which the government established a United States Assay Office in San Francisco and announced that beginning in February 1851 it would receive gold dust for smelting and assaying and form ingots and bars in accordance with a contract authorized by an act of Congress.

The United States Assay Office was not permitted to strike regular issue United States coinage so a request was made to establish a United States mint in San Francisco to provide sufficient coinage for commercial transactions on the western frontier. Work on a San Francisco mint building began in 1853 and this new facility produced its first United States coinage in April 1854 with the striking of \$20 gold double eagles with an S mintmark. Production of silver coinage with the S mintmark began in 1855 with the striking of silver quarters and half dollars.

During the years immediately before and during the Civil War the state of California was far removed from the turmoil that led to war in the eastern part of the country. The San Francisco mint continued to produce large quantities of gold and silver coinage during this period that would facilitate commercial transactions in the far west. However, development in the western states was greatly restricted by the lack of a land route across the country connecting East and West. However, this deficiency was overcome at Promontory Summit in Utah on May 10, 1869 where the Union Pacific and Central Pacific rails met to form the nation's first transcontinental railroad. The culmination of the nation's dream to unite the East and West coasts brought major changes to the country. The new railroad provided the first practical means of round trip travel from coast to coast. The railroad expanded the settlement of the western states from Nebraska to California.

At this time of growth and development in the western states I would like to examine the coinage produced at the San Francisco mint during the year 1872. I have chosen this year because it was a time of westward expansion and the year before the change in weight of the silver dime, quarter and half dollar. This weight change with the addition of arrows at the date for the silver denominations in 1873 had an effect on the survival rate for some of the denominations struck in 1872. The production of San Francisco Mint coinage for the year 1872 along with its listed value in three circulated grades from the October 2012 issue of Coin Values is given in Table 1 below. No prices are given for the gold issues in the VG-8 grade because gold coinage is not usually collected in this grade.

Table 1
Production and Value of 1872-S Coinage in Circulated Grades

Denomination	Mintage	VG-8	VF-20	AU-50
Half Dime	837,000	\$21	\$27	\$85
Dime	190,000	35	200	500
Quarter	83,000	1500	4500	10,000
Half Dollar	580,000	45	125	450
Seated Dollar	9,000	500	1250	3250
Quarter Eagle	18,000	-	350	1000
Half Eagle	36,400	-	750	3750
Eagle	17,300	-	1000	2250
Double Eagle	780,000	-	1900	2200
Total	2,550,700			

The table shows that the San Francisco mint struck a total of 2,550,700 coins from five silver denominations and four gold denominations during 1872. Interestingly enough, 86.1% of these coins are from only three denominations, these being half dimes, half dollars and double eagles. Not surprising is the fact that the half dollar



1872-S Quarter in an XF-40 Grade

was the largest circulating silver denomination at this time and the double eagle was the largest circulating gold denomination of this period.

The 1872-S half dime was the smallest silver coin struck in San Francisco during this year and had the highest mintage of the nine denominations struck at the branch mint in 1872. Half dimes were first struck in San Francisco in 1863 and they were produced every year through 1873. The mintmark was placed below the wreath beginning in 1863 and continued in this position through 1869. The unique 1870-S half dime has a mintmark within the wreath while all of the known 1871-S half dimes have their mintmarks within the wreath. The mintmark was again placed below the wreath on 1873-S half dimes making the 1872-S half dime the only branch mint issue of this denomination for which both In Wreath and Below Wreath coins were produced. Both varieties are common and readily available in all circulated grades to the interested collector. This denomination is the least expensive of the nine issues produced in San Francisco in 1872 and both varieties are listed at the same prices in Coin Values.

The 1872-S dime is more difficult to find in average circulated grades than its mintage would seem to suggest but nice examples can be found with some searching. This coin becomes scarce in grades above VF and rare in grades approaching mint state. The mintmark is located below the wreath on all examples of this issue. A nice AU coin would be difficult to obtain but original VF coins would be available to the interested collector. It is possible that a number of mint state examples of this issue still on hand at the San Francisco mint were melted after the weight of the dime was slightly increased by the Mint Act of February 12, 1873. This would account for the scarcity of this issue from a relatively large original mintage.

The 1872-S quarter is a very rare issue that is seldom available to the interested collector in any grade. It is the rarest issue from the San Francisco mint produced in 1872 despite an original mintage of 83,000 pieces, a figure that ranks in the middle of the mintages for the nine denominations produced during this year. This issue is one of the rarest San Francisco quarters and a prized rarity in the Seated quarter series. Its surprising rarity is again most likely a result of the Mint Act of February 12, 1873 which slightly increased the weight of this denomination. After the passage of



1872-S Seated Dollar in an AU-50 Grade

this act the mints were ordered to melt uncurrent coins on hand to meet the requirements of the new law. It is certainly possible that the San Francisco mint had a large supply of unreleased 1872-S quarters that were melted and re-made into quarters of the new standard. A few gem uncirculated examples of this issue are known to exist but a specimen in an average circulated grade would be a valuable addition to any collection.

The 1872-S half dollar is readily available in all circulated grades to the interested collector and is the second least expensive issue of this year after the 1872-S half dime. In their *Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars* published in 1993, Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert list two varieties for this issue, one with a Small Wide S mintmark and the other with a Medium-Small S mintmark. Examples of both varieties would be available to the interested collector in all circulated grades. In his new reference book *A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint* published in 2009, Bill Bugert lists four die marriages for this issue, two with Small Wide mintmarks and two with Medium-Small mintmarks. None of these die marriages appear to be particularly difficult to obtain in nice circulated grades.

The 1872-S Seated dollar had a mintage of only 9000 coins, the smallest mintage of the nine issues from this branch mint in 1872. Even with such a small mintage it is likely that some of these pieces were melted as a result of the Mint Act of February 12, 1873. This date is scarce in average circulated grades but nice examples can be located with some searching. This issue becomes rare in XF and higher grades and extremely rare in mint state. Any example in mint state would be a treasured addition to a numismatic collection. Prices are reasonable in grades up to VF but higher grade pieces command a nice premium.

The 1872-S quarter eagle had a mintage of only 18,000 pieces and is available in VF to XF grades. This issue however becomes scarce in AU grades and is very rare and seldom seen in mint state. An example described as AU-55 appeared in Part II of the Bass Collection Sale by Bowers and Merena in October 1999. A total of four examples of this issue appeared in the Bass Collection Sales by Bowers and Merena in 1999 and 2000, none of them in mint state and none in a higher grade than the piece listed above as AU-55.



1872-S Half Eagle in AU-53 Grade

The 1872-S half eagle has a higher mintage than the quarter eagle but this issue is the most difficult to obtain of the four gold issues in the higher circulated grades. Nice VF examples can be found with some searching but pieces grading XF and higher are rare. This issue is very rare in AU grades and prohibitively rare in mint state. An example certified as PCGS AU55 appeared in Part III of the Bass Collection Sale by Bowers and Merena in May 2000.

The 1872-S eagle is scarce in VF and XF grades but it becomes rare in AU and prohibitively rare in mint state. Two pieces described as AU-55 appeared in Part IV of the Bass Collection Sale by Bowers and Merena in November 2000. Six additional examples of this issue appeared in various VF and XF grades in the two previous parts of the Bass Collection Sale.

The 1872-S double eagle is by far the most common of the four gold issues of this year from the San Francisco mint. In fact with its large mintage coins grading VF and XF are listed at prices just a few hundred dollars above the value of their gold content. There are a number of uncirculated coins from this issue but most of them are in the lower mint state grades. Pieces in grades of MS-62 and higher are very rare and command a significant premium. An example certified as PCGS MS62 appeared in Part III of the Bass Collection Sale by Bowers and Merena in May 2000.

Forming a set of nine coins representing one example from each of the nine denominations produced at the San Francisco branch mint in 1872 would represent a significant challenge. By far the rarest issue and the most expensive coin in the set would be the 1872-S quarter. The Seated dollar from this year is scarce but more readily available than the quarter. Finding nice circulated examples of the half dime, dime and half dollar coins would not represent a serious challenge. The four gold coins are all available in the VF grades but all become much more difficult to obtain when you get into the AU and higher grades. I might even suggest a ten piece set that would include Below Wreath and In Wreath examples of the 1872-S half dime.

The table shows that the five silver 1872-S coins could be obtained in a VG-8 grade for about \$2101 while the cost of the same five coins in a VF-20 grade would be about \$6102. The cost of the four gold coins in a VF-20 grade would be about \$4000. Interestingly, the listed value for the 1872-S quarter in a VF-20 grade at \$4500 is more than the \$4000 price for the four gold coins combined in the same VF-20 grade. Surprisingly, the total listed price for the four gold coins in VF is only several hundred dollars more than the current gold content of the pieces. However, premiums for the gold pieces increase dramatically when you examine the prices for these pieces in AU-50 grades.

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Brian Greer Inducted into LSCC Hall of Fame

Numismatic dealer and collector Brian Greer was inducted into the LSCC Hall of Fame at the Annual Meeting of LSCC on August 9, 2012 during the ANA Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the Hall of Fame for his contributions to the numismatic research on Liberty Seated coinage, his contributions to the literature on Liberty Seated coinage and his unrelenting searches for rare date Seated coinage. Over the years Brian has been able to locate unusual die marriages of Seated coinage for a long list of numismatic clients who have provided him with their want lists of specialized material for their collections. If there is a date or variety that you have been unable to find, just ask Brian Greer, he will find an example for you sooner rather than later.

Brian Greer was the fifth person selected to join an elite group of members in the LSCC Hall of Fame. Club members previously selected for the LSCC Hall of Fame are long time Club President John McCloskey, Club Founder Kam Ahwash (deceased), half dime scholar Al Blythe (deceased), and half dollar scholar Randy Wiley. In fierce competition, the Hall of Fame Committee selected Brian Greer this year from a pool of nine nominations by active club members.

To be considered for the LSCC Hall of Fame, an individual must have been a club member for at least ten years, made significant advances to the numismatic research on Liberty Seated coinage or to the numismatic literature on Liberty Seated coinage, built a significant collection of Liberty Seated coinage, or have served as a club officer for at least five years.

Questions on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club or the LSCC Hall of Fame may be directed to club vice president Bill Bugert at wb8cpy@earthlink.net.

Bill Bugert
Vice-President LSCC



**Brian Greer Accepting Hall of Fame Plaque from
Club President John McCloskey**

LSCC 40th Anniversary Medal

The 40th Anniversary of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club is upon us and orders for the 40th Anniversary Medal are being accepted until November 30, 2012. The medal will be available in one ounce .999 silver and gold. Order forms have been sent by postal mail to all club members while order forms are also available on-line at the club website, www.lscweb.org.

The silver medal is available in satin and proof, while the gold medal will be available only in proof finish. The gold medal is available exclusively to members of LSCC. Member numbers, and member names if requested, will be incused on the edge of the gold medal. Due to striking considerations the gold medal will be approximately the size of a U.S. double eagle, and the silver medal will be approximately the size of a silver dollar. No limits have been set on the silver medal; however, the gold medal has a strict limit of one medal per club member.

The 40th Anniversary medal has been designed by Daniel Carr of the Moonlight Mint, a well respected artisan in the industry. The designs are in high relief with the obverse having the "Name on Base Seated Liberty" design from the Gobrecht Dollar, and the reverse having the "Gobrecht Dollar Flying Eagle without Stars" design. The obverse has been designed to be used for uniface presentation medals and again for the 50th Anniversary Medal in ten years with just the name of the club and the date of founding, while the reverse states the anniversary being celebrated.

It is hoped that we will have the medals available for distribution at the March 2013 Baltimore Whitman show. Those not attending the show will receive their medal order in the mail soon thereafter. NGC has agreed to encapsulate the medals for anyone interested. The club has no involvement in the NGC process. NGC rules



LSCC 40th Anniversary Medal

and requirements are in effect between NGC and the individual member. Certain limited edition medals such as "Trial Strikes" will be auctioned off at upcoming national LSCC meetings.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Len Augsburg, Bill Bugert, and Gerry Fortin, for their hard work and dedication to this celebration of 40 years of numismatic history.

Dennis Fortier
LSCC #2016



The 40th Anniversary Issue of the Gobrecht Journal

The 40th Anniversary Committee is looking for writers to prepare material for a special issue of the Gobrecht Journal that will be released to all club members during July 2013 to mark the 40th Anniversary milestone of LSCC. We are looking for original information on Liberty Seated coinage but we would like to particularly encourage the preparation of historical articles on these beautiful silver coins from the 19th century to mark this important historical milestone by LSCC.

While the contents of major collections have been preserved in auction archives by the major auction houses over the last ten years, most collectors know very little about the contents of historical auctions that were conducted more than 20 years ago. These historical auctions often contain important specimens that frequently appear in current auctions but the contents of these early sales have been forgotten by all but the most dedicated numismatic scholars. For example, the James A. Stack Collection of Seated half dollars was sold at auction by Stack's during March 1975 and contained some very important Seated half dollars in outstanding grades. The Reed Hawn Collection of mint state Seated quarters was also sold at auction by Stack's during March 1977. Hawn gave up in his efforts to complete this set because he could not find some of the dates in mint state grades. Hardly anybody remembers which dates he was unable to locate in uncirculated condition. The Norweb Collection of Seated dollars was sold at auction by Bowers and Merena during November 1988 and contained some magnificent examples of Liberty Seated coinage. Three of the four Carson City dollars from the collection were described as mint state. Do you know which of the four dates was listed only as AU-50? This is the same AU grade assigned to the 1870-S Seated dollar from this collection. Information on the contents of one of these three collections or any other historical collection would make an important contribution to the 40th Anniversary Issue of the journal.

One of the most important research articles ever published in the Gobrecht Journal was a 26 page research paper written by Randy Wiley entitled *Die Marriages of 1861-O Half Dollars*. This article was published in Issue #94 of the journal in November 2005 and included detailed descriptions of the fifteen known die marriages for the 1861-O

half dollar, a die emission chart that documented the order in which these die marriages were struck as well as the author's opinion on the coining authority for each of the die marriages struck during this first year of the Civil War. An interview with Randy Wiley asking him to elaborate on the work that was necessary to produce this outstanding research article would be of interest to just about every member of the club.

Club President John McCloskey was appointed Editor of the Gobrecht Journal in August 1975. As editor he has published three issues of the Gobrecht Journal every year for over 37 years without ever missing an issue. It would be of interest to almost every club member to know how he has managed to meet his demanding obligations to the club over these many years. An interview with him describing how he has been able to produce a new issue of the journal every four months without fail would be valuable information for all of us who often have trouble meeting deadlines.

I am working on an article entitled *The Making of the 40th Anniversary Medal* as my contribution to the 40th Anniversary Issue. Please consider making your contribution to this important issue by submitting some material for publication that can be enjoyed by other collectors of Liberty Seated coinage. Without you the members, there is no Journal.

Dennis Fortier
LSCC #2016



On the Cover

The covers of this issue of the journal present beautiful color images of an 1862 Liberty Seated dollar that has been certified as PCGS MS65. This is the Share/Legend specimen that is a deeply toned gorgeous gem with stunning natural album toning consisting of warm rose centers and moderate to heavy electric blue in the fields and periphery. The surfaces are nearly perfect and the eye appeal is superb. This specimen is a magnificent example of a beautiful and naturally toned Liberty Seated dollar. A strong case could be made for this coin to be graded even higher than the current MS65 grade.

Greg Shishmanian
LSCC #1494



LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB



Publishers of the **GOBRECHT JOURNAL**

Treasurer's Report 2011-2012

Beginning Balance – September 1, 2011	\$14,526.49
Receipts	
Membership Dues	\$11,540.00
Advertising	120.00
Donations	1,345.00
Interest	24.20
Back Issues	15.00
Auctions	<u>1,605.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$14,649.20
Total Available	\$29,175.69
Disbursements	
Printing	\$6,926.65
Postage	3,855.77
Exhibits	992.00
Office Supplies	561.89
Post Office Box Rental	86.00
Medal Engraving	1,500.00
Bank Fees	<u>20.00</u>
Total Spent	\$13,942.31
Cash Balance – August 31, 2012	\$15,233.38

Len Augsburger
LSCC Secretary/Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I'M A COLLECTOR ☐ DEALER ☐ COLLECTOR/DEALER ☐

YOU MAY ☐ MAY NOT ☐

SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

I COLLECT BY DATE SEATED HALF DIMES ☐ DIMES ☐

QUARTERS ☐ HALF DOLLARS ☐ DOLLARS ☐ ALL SEATED ☐

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Membership Fee - \$20.00 for first year dues and initiation fee.

Fill in the above and mail with \$20.00 to:

Len Augsburgers • P.O. Box 6114

Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We ask that you notify us as soon as possible when you move or change your mailing address. It seems that we always have one or two *Journals* returned to us for improper address when a member has moved to a new location. In such cases, we must wait for the member to contact us and provide us with the new address. To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving the Journal and to assist us in keeping our mailing list current, ***we ask that you inform us as soon as possible of any change of address.***

Reverse Picture of
1862 Dollar Graded PCGS MS 65
The Share/Legend Specimen



Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

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